

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It hardly seems possible that two weeks have already passed since I last wrote to you! There is certainly a buzz in the air as we busily prepare for our forthcoming Awards Evening, Christmas concerts and, of course, mock examinations in the coming weeks.

### Remembrance Assemblies

Over the course of this week, all year groups attended a Remembrance assembly which provided a serious and sombre opportunity for students to remember all those whose lives have been affected by conflict since World War I, and for students to participate in their own act of remembrance should they wish to as we collectively observed a minute of silence. In particular, we reflected on Remembrance Day as a symbol of enduring human spirit, resilience and the hope for unity and peace. It is always incredibly impressive to see our students respond so respectfully and sensitively in these moments. I would like to give a special thanks to Mr Devlin, Head of Humanities, for providing such historical and current expertise on conflicts across the world.

### Parent and Carer Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the parent and carer survey that was sent out recently by Mr Parker. This feedback is invaluable in supporting us to better understand the areas of our school that you feel are working incredibly well for your child and areas where you think there are opportunities for further refinement. Whilst we are very pleased to share that the overwhelming majority of responses were incredibly positive, we are certainly not a school that rests on its laurels and always believe there are ways that we can continue to improve our provision and look to parental, carer, staff and student feedback to do so. In total, we received 204 responses, with 58 comments made on topics that parents and carers felt were not covered in the questions asked. It is our intention to respond directly to parents and carers that made very specific comments about their individual child's experience. There are two key areas that the survey suggests we could improve further; these are:

- Home learning
- Uniform

We are already in the process of taking action in these areas and will be communicating the specific details of how we intend to make further improvements with you shortly.

Some comments in the survey also asked about how parents and carers could increase their involvement and engagement in school activities and this is something that we would genuinely welcome. Friends of NSG is a



group composed of parents, carers (past and present) and members of the local community that want to support the school community as much as possible and they would welcome additional members. If you would like to learn more about the Friends of NSG and how you can get involved, please email [friends@nsg.northants.sch.uk](mailto:friends@nsg.northants.sch.uk) They are a wonderful group of people who make significant contributions to fundraising for the school.

### Sporting Achievement

Finishing securely in 1st place, the Inter Girls Cross Country team put on a very impressive performance in the Inter Counties Cross Country Cup last week. Individual team runners finished in the following positions: Jess L finished 1<sup>st</sup> place with Claudia T finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Emily D finished 7<sup>th</sup> and Emma M finished in 15<sup>th</sup> place. I am conscious that as I write this, the team is currently en route to the Regional Cross-Country Cup at Stowe School. We wish them the very best of luck! I must also extend my congratulations to the Junior Girls Cross Country team, who finished 8th overall at the Inter Counties Cross Country Cup, with particularly impressive performances from Bella L, who secured 1<sup>st</sup> place and Amelie H who finished 6<sup>th</sup> place.

With a succession of impressive wins over recent weeks, the U14 Netball team finished in 1st place at the County Plate Competition last week. The tenacity and togetherness of this team is commendable, and they continue to grow in confidence each game. Next week, they face stiff competition at the County Cup championships held at Oundle School – good luck girls! Similarly, our fantastic U13 Football team have stormed their way through to the next round of the National Cup following a series of terrific wins. We are keeping everything crossed for their winning streak to continue as they progress through the stages of the competition.

Good luck to all our teams and athletes who are competing in competitions in the next few weeks. We are immensely proud of the number of students that continue to participate in sport and physical activities at the school.

### Author Visit: Tamsin Winter

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, we are lucky enough to have multi-award-winning author, Tamsin Winter, visiting the school to talk to our students about how she became an author and some of the challenges she faced. Tamsin grew up in a Northamptonshire village not far from NSG and worked as an English teacher for many years. Her debut novel, 'Being Miss Nobody', won multiple awards and her second novel, 'Jemima Small Versus the Universe', was shortlisted for the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize and nominated for the Carnegie Medal. We are looking forward to welcoming Tamsin to NSG and have no doubt that our students will relish the opportunity to hear about her experiences.

Wishing you all a good weekend,



Mrs Taboada-Naya | Headteacher

